

Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04
H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
SS-15 USIA-06 IO-13 DHA-02 AID-05 TRSE-00 OMB-01
ORM-02 /099 W

-----221216Z 011376 /23-11

R 221055Z JAN 77
FM AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3465
INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMCONSUL ASMARA
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

C O N F I D E N T I A L KHARTOUM 0262

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, SU, SO, ET
SUBJECT: OSCLF STATEMENT ON DJIBOUTI

REF: KHARTOUM 0187 (NOTAL)

1. SAHAFI JANUARY 22 GIVES PROMINENT FRONT PAGE COVERAGE
TO REPORTED PRESS INTERVIEW BY TAHIR ALI
WAEISI, DESCRIBED AS PRESIDENT OF OCCUPIED SOMALI COAST
LIBERATION FRONT (OSCLF) WHO ANNOUNCED THAT COMMITTEE
FORMED OF REPS FROM KUWAIT, ALGERIA, LIBYA AND JORDAN
TO NEGOTIATE WITH FRENCH GOVERNMENT ON INDEPENDENCE OF
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DJIBOUTI. HE SAID COMMITTEE WAS FORMED AS RESULT CONTACT
HELD BY OSCLF WITH ARAB LEAGUE. WAEISI DEMANDED THAT
INDEPENDENCE TALKS PROPOSED BY FRANCE SHOULD BE IN NEUTRAL COUNTRY
AND NOT IN PARIS. HE ALSO ASKED FOR RELEASE OF 5,000 POLITICAL
PRISONERS IN DJIBOUTI, RETURN OF 4,000 CITIZENS IN EXILE,
AND LIFTING OF SEIGE ON DJIBOUTI AS CONDITIONS FOR
STARTING INDEPENDENCE TALKS. HE SPOKE OF ISRAELI-ETHIOPIAN

PRESENCE IN REGION AND DEPLORED APPROVAL OF FRENCH
AUTHORITIES TO ISRAELI USE OF DJIBOUTI HARBOR. HE ALSO
DEPLORED AMBITIONS OF ETHIOPIA IN REGION AND
EFFORTS TO DISUNITE PEOPLE OF SOMALI COAST.

2. COMMENT: THIS IS FIRST PROMINENT MENTION WE CAN RECALL
IN GOVERNMENT-CONTROLLED PRESS HERE OF SOMALI VIEWS ON
DJIBOUTI QUESTION. STATEMENT APPEARS CONCURRENTLY WITH
VISCUM OF GSDR SECURITY CHIEF (REFTEL) WHO CARRIED MESSAGE
FROM SIAD BARRE TO NIMEIRI AND WHO PUBLICILY CRITICIZED
ETHIOPIAN ATTITUDE VIS-A-VIS SUDAN ON JAN 21 (ADDIS 357 NOTAL).
WE CONCLUDE GOS AND GSDR LIKELY COOPERATE MORE CLOSELY NOW
THAN IN PAST AS EACH, FOR SOMEWHAT DIFFERENT REASONS, IS
PRESENTLY ANTAGONISTIC TO ETHIOPIAN REGIME. MOREOVER, AS
NIMEIRI TOLD AMBASSADOR JAN 18, GSDR BECOMING SUSPICIOUS
OF MOSCOW'S RELATIONSHIP WITH EPMG AND SUDANESE LEADER
WISHES WEAN SOMALIS AWAY FROM SOVIET INFLUENCE. WE
UNDERSTAND NIMEIRI IS ALSO SEEKING ENTICE SOMALIS BY
ARGUING HE CAN HELP END THEIR ISOLATION FROM ARABS
GENERALLY. BREWER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, INDEPENDENCE, LIBERATION FRONTS, NEGOTIATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 22-Jan-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977KHARTO00262
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770024-0552
Format: TEL
From: KHARTOUM
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770127/aaaaaxqy.tel
Line Count: 82
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: f5c1b7d2-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 KHARTOUM 187
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 12-Nov-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3530187
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: OSCLF STATEMENT ON DJIBOUTI
TAGS: PFOR, SU, SO, ET, FT
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/f5c1b7d2-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009